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To: Secretarial Commission on Trust Reform and Management

Date: June 11, 2012

The following thoughts reflect some guiding principles for the Commission to consider.

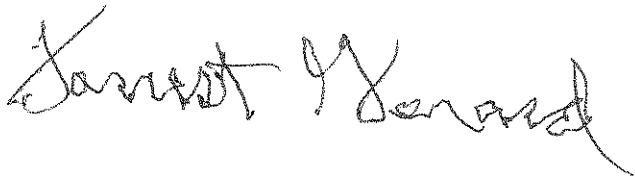
A 21st century federal-trust responsibility owing to Indian people calling for:

Protection of:

1. Tribal Homelands
2. Associated natural resources
3. Self-Governance rights to ensure that Indians play a vital role in efforts to improve their social, economic and political standing.

I am hopeful this Commission and the Departmental leadership will think long and hard before sending an Indian trust relationship proposal to the dysfunctional Congress. I am a lifelong Democrat, and I make this not as a partisan statement, but this Tribal person's concern, is that Congress would use this as a vehicle to impose negative consequences.

Finally, I submit that the Secretary of the Interior possesses sufficient authority under the 1948 Government Reorganization Act (or its successor Act), and through the Snyder Act authorizing Indian appropriations. I believe strongly these two authorities could serve for the formulation for a new federal trust policy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Forrest J. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping underline.